

Dear Parents / Carers,

The final day, and the conclusion, of the 2020-2021 academic year is now upon us, and what a year it has been! But we made it! We've even managed to create magical moments along the way ☺.

As we reflect on a year unlike any other, for a moment, cast your minds back to September 2020...

We began the year with a staggered timetable, with different starting times, finishing times and entrances for differing year groups which on first appearance, appeared like a logistical nightmare for parents, but with your support and patience, that soon became embedded with your support and patience. In a similar manner, the children quickly became accustomed to their staggered and 'segregated' break and lunch times within their year group pods, as well as their reconfigured classrooms. This pod model was replicated for our extended day provision also. All of this was in an effort to create a COVID-19 secure environment for pupils and staff. This worked well and afforded teachers and support staff the opportunity to deliver our 'catch-up' curriculum to address missed learning from the 2019-2020 academic year.

As we returned after the Autumn half-term break, within the context of increasing infection rates, the inevitable happened and pods began to close and the implementation of remote learning began. No doubt you will have your own recollection of this period as not all year groups had to experience pod closures. Where there were pod closures, they were for a maximum of 10 school days and remote learning, using the Google Classroom platform, was 'new and improved' on the 2019-2020 model. As the term drew to a close, we endeavoured to deliver the usual Christmas performance events and recorded them for you to enjoy on our website. As we departed for the Christmas holiday, we also had the departure of our previous Executive Headteacher, Mrs Thomas.

The New Year ushered in our new Executive Head Teacher, Mr Warren, alongside a new Chair Of Governors, Will Emms. We must say thank you to Laurence Kavanagh who served in that role for six years and still serves on the governing board; your service to Daubeney and the federation is much appreciated. There was also a 'last minute' national lockdown which meant school was open only to the children of keyworkers and there was whole school engagement with Google Classroom. There was a flurry of activity to get devices to all pupils (our PCTA were a great source of support at this crucial time, and throughout the year with donations of devices, food, money and their time – thank you Sarah and the team!) and our teachers embarked on the online teaching/home learning journey in earnest, in collaboration with you as parents at home – whilst many of you were also working from home! These were perhaps the 'darkest days' (literally and metaphorically) as we all awaited the government's 'two week notice' for a date on which schools would fully re-open.

That date was eventually announced and we all returned on Monday 8th March, the weather played ball and our pupils were welcomed back in radiant sunshine and with smiling staff, who were very happy to be back in school with their pupils, where we all know the best Teaching & Learning (T&L) takes place. Our pupils were over the moon to be back with their friends; very appreciative of being back at school and enjoyed a series of themed weeks that heavily focused on their well-being via our PSHE curriculum. Superhero Day was certainly a highlight of the year.

The 'short lived' and very joyous Spring 2 half term at school, was followed after the Easter break by the 'golden era' of Summer 1 where we had no pod closures, staggered timetable routines were established, traditional T&L was taking place and we had consistency/'normality' in our lives - things were going 'swimmingly' ☺

As staff prepared optimistically for the final Summer 2 half term, all year groups were impacted upon, to various degrees, by the pervading increased infection rates and resultant pod closures. Thankfully, all year groups were able to enjoy the last 'week' at school. In spite of all the aforementioned challenges, our end of year teacher assessments and summative tests have shown: that all pupils have made good progress from their starting points this year; all year groups have achieved their projected end of year targets (where there are shortfalls there are plans in place for our return in the new year); year groups for which there is traditionally published data e.g. Reception, Year 1 Phonics; Year 2 SATs & Year 6 SATs have achieved levels of attainment that are comparable with nationally published data prior to the pandemic. This is no mean feat and our staff should be lauded for this. In addition to the academic attainment of our pupils we have endeavoured to provide, as many activities as possible to support our pupils' well-being and general sense of enjoyment for being at school when there was so much talk of catch-up curriculum, children being 'behind' on their learning etc. Please access the link below to access the highlights of the year as an aide de memoir. <https://www.daubeney.hackney.sch.uk/highlights>

These achievements say much about: the vision and ethos of the school; the dedication and practice of our teachers and support staff; the resilience of our pupils and the support of you as parents. The year also culminated in the formal naming of our federation as The Blossom Federation of Daubeney, Sebright & Lauriston Schools.

We now look forward to seeing you all again for the new academic year on **Thursday 2nd September at 8:45am** – and 'getting those brains alive!'

Please also make a note of the date and times of our Meet the Teacher sessions upon our return.

Date & Time	Year Group	Location
Monday 6 th September – 4:15pm	Year 6	KS2 Hall
Monday 6 th September – 3:45pm	Year 2	KS1 Hall
Tuesday 7 th September – 4:15pm	Year 5	KS2 Hall
Tuesday 7 th September – 3:45pm	Year 1	KS1 Hall
Wednesday 8 th September – 3:45pm	Year 3	KS1 Hall
Wednesday 8 th September 4:15pm	Year 4	KS2 Hall
Thursday 9 th September – 3:45pm	Reception	KS1 Hall
Friday 10 th September – 3:45pm	Nursery	Nursery Building

Finally, enjoy the summer holiday of play ☺

Yours sincerely,



Mr Gregory Logan
Head of School
Daubeney Primary



Robin Warren
Executive Head Teacher